

CATASTROPHE ALERT

On February 21, 2008 while setting large trusses, 3 employees were injured when the trusses they were setting collapsed into the interior of the new structure being built. The three injured employees were tasked with setting and securing the trusses in different locations as the trusses were set in place. A fourth employee was giving hand signals to the rigger on the ground who then relayed the signals to the crane operator. Prior to the accident 25 trusses had been set and the crane operator was waiting to be un-hooked from the 25th truss. Based on the information collected the trusses were not adequately secured which caused all of the trusses to fall in a domino effect. As they fell they collided with the truss still attached to the crane causing the truss to be ripped from the slings. Immediate first aid attention was given by the others working at the site. The crane operator called the company's dispatcher and asked for emergency assistance. Others on the site also called for emergency assistance.

Significant Factors

- The employer failed to ensure the trusses were installed as the manufacturers recommended.
- The trusses were not properly secured as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Only short 2 x 6's, 27 inches in length were found in the rubble.
- No long boards were found that would have been used to crisscross the trusses interlocking and stabilizing the trusses.
- Time of accident 5:15 p.m.; and weather conditions were good both prompted the need to hurry to get the job done in case the weather turned bad.

Recommendations

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this accident.
- Train employees on Wyoming Rules & Regulations.
- Develop SOP's or JSA's prior to performing work tasks and ensure all employees on site have been briefed/understand the work to be performed.
- Ensure all employees are trained to recognize the hazards applicable to their job/task.
- All employees should be trained on constantly assessing the operation for safety hazards.
- Employees on-site should be given the authority to stop a procedure or task that is unsafe.
- Management should conduct routine inspections to ensure job safety.